

Roles of the concept of environmental services for a multi-level dialogue on the adoption of biodiversified production systems in the Brazilian Amazon

Antonio Gabriel Lima Resque¹, Christophe Le Page², Emilie Coudel³, Marie-Gabrielle Piketty²

(1) Universidade Federal Rural da Amazônia, 68625-000 Paragominas, Brazil

(2) UPR Green-CIRAD, F-34398 Montpellier, France

(3) UPR Green-Cirad, Universidade de Brasília, 70910-900 Brasília, Brazil

Abstract

Delivery of environmental services in agricultural systems is a challenge particularly relevant in the Brazilian Amazon, characterized by the co-existence of production systems with different degrees of biodiversification and, consequently, with different levels of services delivery. However, little emphasis has been given to "service delivery" as a source of change, even though the concept of environmental services could be a tool to facilitate communication between local actors. In this context, this research aims to assess the roles of the concept of environmental service in multi-level consultation processes aimed at supporting the adoption of biodiversified production systems. To analyze whether these "services" could be an instrument for the different actors (institutional, technical, scientific and empirical) to explain and formalize their knowledge and expectations regarding the adoption of biodiversified production systems, data collection was based on 30 interviews focusing on the perception of each actor regarding the concepts of environmental services and biodiversification, in two different counties of the Brazilian Amazon, Paragominas and Irituia. My results shows that: (a) the concept of environmental service is not well known among stakeholders, but some "services" are often mentioned (without using the concept); (b) There is a set of common services perceived by the different stakeholders, among which stand out: i) Provisioning services: quality food; ii) Regulating services: soil fertility, regulation of water cycles and pest control; iii) Supporting services; pollination and biomass production. (c) Despite the low difference in the level of perception of environmental services between the two counties, Irituia stakeholders showed more interest in service delivery. We have concluded that common services perceived by different actors may suggest a toll to promote knowledge dialogue, but stakeholder involvement may vary according to local interests.